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Rite Aid Moving In

Brooks gets bought out

By MARIBETH CONWAY

As of last Monday, a new blue and white banner reading "Rite Aid" is tacked up over the Brooks Pharmacy store on Depot Street.

The Duxbury store is one of 167 Brooks stores in Mass. that were purchased by Rite Aid in an acquisition last week. Rite Aid has acquired 1,854 Brooks and Eckerd stores nationwide making Rite Aid the largest drugstore chain on the east coast and the third largest U.S. drugstore chain after Walgreens and CVS.

The company now boasts of 5,000 stores nationwide. Before the deal was done, an anti-trust investigation did lead the \$17.5 billion company to sell 24 of its 3,332 stores (these numbers reflect Rite Aid's standing before the acquisition).



No negative repercussions should exist for Duxbury residents, said Rite Aid spokeswoman Ashley Flower. Duxbury jobs will remain secure, as Rite Aid has no intention of reducing staff.

Two benefits of the buy-out, Flower said, is an increase in the product mix with about 8,000 new items hitting shelves and a senior discount program to go into effect in the next few months.

The Duxbury store will also receive a minor makeover in the next 16 months and a technology upgrade. A large-scale renovation is also in the works a few years down the road.